Three Day Road Chapter 15 Handout

Mamishihiwewin - Betrayal

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**Summary:**

-**Summer**: Niska and Frenchman spent a lot of time together and had sexual intercourse a lot

-**Winter**: Frenchman and Niska had sexual intercourse but it didn’t seem he loved her as much

-Man from *awawatuk* (Indian tribe) came and told Niska to help his group hunt for food

-Frenchman had to leave, he was angry, they stopped seeing each other

-**Following Summer**: Niska went back to Moose Factory to look for French man

-When she arrived, all Indians looked, pointed and hid from her (All Indians knew what her father did to the Windigo)

-A nice woman let her into her *ashkum*, told Niska about the Frenchman - rumours about him and Niska having sexual intercourse, warned her he likes Indians and has had sexual intercourse with a lot of them

-Met Frenchman in a bar, Niska got really drunk - sexual intercourse in a church

-Niska thought that he really loved her, he tricked Niska - Only reason he had sexual intercourse with her was to take her spirit and power away

-Prayed to God that she had not lost her family’s power

- Spirit animals came, told them to “extinguish the source of her hurt”

-Frenchman went mad cause he saw “demons” - killed himself by throwing himself out a hotel window

Significance of chapter title:

-Betrayal: Frenchman betrayed Niska and tricked her this whole time

-Niska was betrayed from her true love

**Quotations:**

“She warned me with her eyes to be careful of this one, that *wemistikoshiw* were not to be trusted, but I ignored it, too full of him, too flushed with him.” (p. 164)

-Foreshadowing

* happens when Niska is with her mom
* foreshadowing: Niska is betrayed by the Frenchman even though she thought it was love.

“Go out and find the source of my hurt and extinguish it.” (p 176)

- Character development, motif

* takes place after the betrayal
* character development: Niska’s new side is shown
* Motif: the lynx

**Open Questions:**

**1. When Niska says “You must realize once more, Nephew, that in this world of hardship we must grasp the moments that are offered to us” (page 164), what does this reveal about her character?**

-Niska is logical, intelligent, and wise

-Went through many hardships and difficulties in life ever since a very young age

-A lot of weight, burden, responsibility from her special power

-Teaching her nephew that moments of happiness should be valued and treasured, because you never know when they might come again. This shows the affection and love for her nephew, because she wants him to learn the life lessons that she had to learn and figure out the hard way.

**2. When Niska first enters Moose Factory, she receives a very hostile and unwelcoming attitude from the Indians living there. What does this signify?**

-The effect of assimilation taking place

-Hostile and cold Niska, because Christian Indians that have been converted have conflicting beliefs and religion with her

-Decreasing acceptance of the fact that “the old ways are still alive in the bush”.

**3. What might have been different about Niska if she grew up without those special powers?**

-Would’ve been less hungry and needy for love and physical interaction

-She is very lonely and starved for interaction with other people.

-Niska was always the odd one out and never properly fit in.